



Figure 1 Study population groups

**Group 1:** women without identified pregnancy or intrapartum complications; 'low-risk' who stay and give birth in the pool. Women who were considered to be without complications and remained in the pool intending to give birth in water, but who at birth experienced a shoulder dystocia or previously unrecognised breech presentation, with the baby then partially being born into water, (including for example only head, legs or buttocks) will continue to be included in Group 1. **Group 2:** women without identified pregnancy or intrapartum complications 'low-risk' who use water immersion during their labour but decide to leave the water for birth. Similarly, women in Group 2 will include women who were regarded as 'low-risk' but who subsequently experienced shoulder dystocia or breech presentation identified at birth. **Group 3:** women who were identified by their midwife as not having any risk factors when they first got in the pool but later developed, or had a complication in labour identified, and left the water prior to birth. **Group 4:** women who were known to have risk factors when they first got in the pool.

**Figure Legend:** Overview of the four groups of women within the POOL Study population and how these groups will be compared and their data reported.